

WORKING TOGETHER: A VISION FOR A BETTER FUTURE



REPRESENTATIVE **BRIAN SULLIVAN**

District office:

19707 64th Avenue West #207
Lynnwood, WA 98036
425-640-3533

Legislative Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

E-mail:

sullivan_br@leg.wa.gov

TTY (Hearing Impaired):

1-800-635-9993

Home page:

[hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/
sullivan](http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/sullivan)

Committees:

Technology,
Telecommunications and
Energy – *Vice Chair*

Task Force on Economic
Competitiveness – *Vice Chair*

Transportation

A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your State Representative. As a father, husband, and small business owner, I am dedicated to making Washington the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Like you, I understand the responsibility for our state is not only with those appointed and elected, but with each of us, individually and collectively. I believe the best way to serve the citizens of Washington is with an open government and an ongoing, open dialogue within our community. The foundation of my service centers on listening and working with you on issues important to our communities and our families.

Real progress comes from strong leadership and an engaged community. In my last letter I included a section for you to share your thoughts. Many of you responded and I appreciate your comments, ideas and questions. My door is always open. I welcome your suggestions for strengthening our state.

In this newsletter, I highlight the accomplishments and successes we achieved during the 2004 legislative session. I encourage everyone to continue working together, instilling a sense of public service that will create a better future for our state, community and our children.

We must continue improving our schools, ensuring every child has access to a top-quality education; working to create good, family-wage jobs; ensuring quality, affordable health care and establishing safe, caring communities, while being mindful of the effects our decisions have on our environment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent you in Olympia. I look forward to working with you.

All my best,

Brian Sullivan
State Representative
21st Legislative District



REP. SULLIVAN • SERVING THE 21ST DISTRICT

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

I want to take this opportunity to applaud our citizens who work tirelessly to strengthen our local communities. While there are too many success stories to mention, none go unnoticed and all are greatly appreciated. I applaud the efforts of all active participants in our communities. Our system of democracy would be nothing without an engaged citizenry. Here are some highlights:

PREVENTING THE INCREASE OF AIRLINE TRAFFIC AT PAINE FIELD

My thanks extend to the more than 350 people who attended the 21st District Town Hall meeting. Together, you voiced your opinions and sent a clear message that Mukilteo and surrounding communities did not support expanding air traffic at Paine Field. Representative Cooper, Senator Shin and I listened to your concerns. With your active engagement we prevented the expansion of commercial air traffic at Paine Field.

UPHOLDING REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

Citizens of Edmonds were outraged to learn they had no representation in the siting process when their city became a potential site for a \$1.4 billion King County wastewater treatment facility. Working together, they researched the issue and prevented King County from forcing a public facility in their community.

Thanks to their support I successfully passed House Bill 1000 out of the House of Representatives. This legislation would prevent any county from forcing a public facility on an area outside of its boundaries without citizens in the affected communities having an active role in the decision making process. Thank you for your hard work!

IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Beginning in 2008, all graduating students must pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Listening to the concerns of parents and educators, I supported HB 2195 which allows students to re-take the test up to four times while preserving scores of sections they already passed.

SIMPLE MAJORITY

Through recent initiatives, the people of Washington have shown they value schools and desire to improve their children's education. However, voters do not have the power to change

voting requirements for school levies by initiative. I voted for HJR 4204 which would put this question on the ballot.

This legislation empowers citizens to change the voting requirements for school levies to a simple majority (50% +1) rather than the currently required 60-percent supermajority.

Although this legislation did not pass out of the Senate, I will continue advocating for legislation that strengthens our schools and our communities.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Educators are a key component to the success of our children and I applaud them. Every time I visit a classroom I am continually impressed by the dedication and skill of those working with our children. As a Legislator and parent, I



understand the challenges presented by the lack of funding and rigorous new standards developed under education reform. This is why I voted against Charter Schools. Although they pose as a healthy option for improving education, Charter Schools divert money from other public schools, short-changing our children and our educators.

Voters rejected the 2000 Charter Schools initiative

and voted in support of funding smaller classes and better pay for teachers. Instead of creating a parallel school system where none is needed, the legislature should determine how to appropriately and adequately fund our public schools.

As we work towards this goal we must continue working together. Parents, students and educators working in partnership will make the education in our communities the best it can be. I have full faith and confidence in the abilities of our educators and will do all that I can to continue supporting them.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

As the Vice Chair for the Task Force on Economic Competitiveness, I understand the necessity for an educated workforce. By 2008 the largest high school graduating class in state history will compete for access to our state colleges and universities. To prepare for these estimated 30,000 students, I supported House Bill 2459 which will increase enrollment in our state colleges.

This legislation will open doors to higher education. We must do all we can to meet the growing demands in the fields of nursing, computer science and bio-technology, while ensuring all students obtain the education necessary to secure good paying jobs in our competitive, global economy.

A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

REDUCING BOTTLENECKS IN TRANSPORTATION

As a member of the Transportation Committee and local business owner, I understand how important moving people and goods are to our economy. With the successful passage of the supplemental transportation budget (ESHB 2474) road construction on I-5 will be accelerated in Snohomish County. The result will be safer and more efficient commutes.



Adding carpool lanes in each direction between the Boeing freeway and US 2, as well as an all-purpose lane from 41st Street SE to US 2, will clear major chokepoints in our commute and improve access to local businesses. Completing these improvements before the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, B.C. will strengthen our regional economy and promote tourism in our state.

SENIOR AND VETERAN PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

As you know, I am a strong supporter of providing property tax relief for our senior citizens and our veterans. This session I supported legislation that will help over 40,000 additional senior households by providing property-tax relief!

The successful passage of SB 5034 allows more deductions for Medicare insurance premiums and reduces costs for adult family homes. This will be a great asset to many of our seniors battling skyrocketing prescription drug and healthcare costs. I will continue sponsoring and supporting legislation that will offer more assistance. Please stay tuned!

ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

SUPPORTING HOME HEALTHCARE WORKERS

In the future, many of the Baby Boomer generation will be in need of professional care. I support the rights of elderly and disabled people to receive care in their own homes instead of forcing them into alternative care facilities. The quality of home care depends on the quality of our home care workers.

It is essential to support the caregivers who perform everyday tasks such as feeding, cooking, bathing, and administering



medicine. I am proud to support our seniors and people with disabilities by passing HB 1777, which increases the hourly wage of Home Healthcare Workers to \$8.93 and partially subsidizes their health care benefits.

Quality home care not only allows seniors and disabled people to remain in their own homes, it also saves them money. This is not about politics; it is about providing the best quality of life in the most cost

effective manner. HB 1777 helps our loved ones receive the best care for a long time to come.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

As a small business owner, I understand how expensive it is to provide health insurance for employees. Health care costs continue to escalate at double digit rates. High costs and recent premium increases of 20-30 percent hinder many small businesses from offering health benefits to employees.

To help reduce the cost of insurance for the employees of small businesses, I voted for HB 2460. This legislation changes state insurance regulations and eliminates some mandated services in the "small group" market. By allowing insurance companies to offer less expensive plans, more insurance companies will enter the "small group" market in Washington. As a result, more small employers will be able to afford coverage and the number of people with insurance will increase.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE

More than 100,000 Americans are sexually assaulted each year. Children under the age of 18 comprise two-thirds of all reported victims. As a father and concerned citizen, I sponsored legislation to help prevent abuse and assault against children, disabled persons and vulnerable adults.

REP. SULLIVAN • SERVING THE 21ST DISTRICT

Working with a coalition of community stakeholders, I sponsored HB 2936 which would help prevent predators from assaulting our loved ones by requiring background checks for anyone with regular access to children, disabled persons and vulnerable adults.

I also worked with Representative Al O'Brien, (retired police officer) and Representative John Lovick, (State Patrol Sergeant) to pass HB 2556 which strengthens the process for conducting background checks. We must continue working with parents, guardians and local law enforcement agencies to help prevent abuse.

THE FIGHT AGAINST METH

Records show almost 30,000 people live, drive or send their children to school near places where police have found labs used to manufacture methamphetamine. Armed with support from local leaders, I led the effort in the House of Representatives to establish a law enforcement strike team equipped to shut down drug houses in our local communities.

Understanding that no single solution will work, I am also working to strengthen our education, law enforcement and health care systems. I urge you to learn more about the meth epidemic in Snohomish County and help stop the devastation to our families, schools and communities. Together we can make a difference.

MAD COW DISEASE

When a single case of "mad cow" disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE) was found near Yakima in December, I quickly supported measures to protect our health. Prohibiting the use and sale of "downer" cows, strengthening animal identification programs, and giving quarantine and inspecting authority to the state Department of Agriculture, these new laws help assure consumers that the nation's food supply is protected.

PREVENTING OIL SPILLS

Late last year we faced a disastrous 4,800-gallon oil spill at Point Wells. It polluted our beaches, killed marine life, and significantly damaged the environment. Working with Representative Mike Cooper and Senator Paull Shin, I supported a new zero-spill strategy that helps prevent disasters like this from happening again. This legislation, SB 6641 will strengthen rules and require preventive measures that will help prevent and contain future oil spills.

DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE FUELS

As a member of the Transportation Committee and Vice Chair of the Technology, Telecommunications and Energy Committee, I successfully passed several biodiesel incentives last year. Building on this success, I introduced new legislation to promote the development of other alternative fuels. These bills will help our country become more energy efficient and independent of our reliance on natural gas and foreign oil. (HB 2821, 2822, 2823 and 2447)

I will continue working to promote fuel and energy policies that benefit our economy and our environment.

A SPIRIT OF SERVICE

A strong community requires active participants. In the spirit of working together, I encourage everyone to plan or get involved with a local service project.

Please log onto my web site to find additional information and resources:

hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/Sullivan

Thank you for your continued hard work! I look forward to working with you!

Department of Printing
Washington State
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
STANDARD
PRESORTED

**WORKING TOGETHER:
A VISION FOR A BETTER FUTURE
A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT**

BRIAN SULLIVAN
REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Printed on recycled paper